REMARKS

Request for Reconsideration

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remains of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10 and 11 are pending in this Application.

Each of the independent claims has been amended herein to recite that the ink has been exposed to ultraviolet radiation multiple times and that the control section varies the exposure intensity of the ultraviolet radiation depending upon the number of times that the ink has been exposed. Probably, the best support for these amendments can be found in Example 1, Table 2, where it shows that the ink has been exposed to radiation two or more times and the exposure intensity is varied depending on the amount of exposure that the ink receives.

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Invention

One of the novel aspects of the present invention is that overlapping layers of ink are jetted and the exposure intensity is adjusted depending upon the number of times that the overlapping layers have been exposed. In other words, the exposure energy per pass decreases as the number of passes increase.

All the independent claims herein have been amended to recite this novel aspect of the present Invention. Thus, the control section varies the exposure intensity of the radiation depending on the number of times that the jetted ink has been exposed.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10 and 11 have been rejected as being unpatentable over a combination of Kurashima in view of Mills. Kurashima has been cited to teach the basic apparatus for ink jet recording and Mills has been cited to teach varying the intensity of the UV light depending on the image recording speed. For this teaching, the Examiner points to Paragraph 78 of Mills.

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Paragraph 78 of Mills teaches that pulses of the UV light are reduced or increased in number as the carriage decelerates or accelerates so that pulses per inch remain constant, see lines 16-19 of Paragraph 78. Mills teaches that he has a feedback system which, as the carriage decelerates/accelerates, can automatically instruct the pulse circuit to reduce or increase the number of pulses. Thus, Mills is teaching that his apparatus increases or reduces the amount of energy used for curing the ink depending on the speed of the carriage. This is in direct contrast to the present Invention where the amount of energy that is generated by the UV source is dependent upon the amount of UV light previously employed in the system. Thus, in the present Invention, the amount of light to be used is a function of the amount of light previously used.

Thus, although both systems maintain a constant amount of UV light that is provided to the system, Mills calculates his based on the speed of the carriage while the present Invention calculates it based on the number of times that the ink is exposed to UV light. There is a difference between the two.

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For example, in the present Invention, if the carriage passes over the same area multiple times, the amount of radiation can be decreased for each pass no matter what speed the carriage is traveling at. This allows for a constant amount of radiation to be provided to the ink. As noted in the last paragraph on page 13, by varying the amount of exposure intensity based on the number of times that the ink has been exposed, over exposure can be avoided. Over exposure or excess exposure can cause roughness due to ink particles or result in insufficient glossiness.

Respectfully, the claims as presented herein, are patentable over either Kurashima and Mills taken along or in combination.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending

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condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account # 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By: Donald C Lucas

Donald C. Lucas, 31,275
Attorney for Applicant(s)
475 Park Avenue South, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10016
Tel. # 212-661-8000

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